

Applicant: Blodgett
Serial No.: 10/766,267

PATENT
Atty. Docket: 18393-512

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 11, and 19 as set forth below.

Please add new claims 27 and 28 as set forth below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A slide-out mechanism comprising:

a frame; said frame comprising at least one first frame member and at least one second frame member, said at least one second frame member being movable relative to said at least one first frame member;

said second frame member comprised of a first support rail and a second support rail, said first and second support rails being fixedly connected to each other ~~in a horizontal along a vertical~~ plane such that a load encountered by said second frame member is distributed laterally ~~in a horizontal plane containing~~ across said first and second support rails; and,

a floor structure connected to said second frame member.

2. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein a longitudinal axis of said first support rail is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said second support rail.

3. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said first support rail is welded to said second support rail.

4. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said first support rail and said second support rail have a rectangular cross section.

5. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 4, wherein said first support rail and said second support rail have a closed rectangular cross section.

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6. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said first support rail and said second support rail are separated by an intervening connective structure.

7. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 6, wherein a gear rack is disposed on said connective structure.

8. (Previously Presented) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said at least one first frame member is fixed to a vehicle.

9. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said second frame member telescopes relative to said first frame member.

10. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 9, wherein said second frame member telescopes inside of said first frame member.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having at least two stationary members and at least two movable members;

urging said at least two movable members outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails which are laterally joined to each other along a substantially vertical junction and at substantially the same height and which are included as part of each of said at least two movable members.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over said support rails and wherein said support rails are connectively spaced from each other.

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13. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the providing of a slide out frame includes providing at least two movable members that have a gear rack disposed between said at least two support rails.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the urging of said at least two movable members includes causing a motive force to act on said gear rack.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially closed rectangular cross-section.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing weight over support rails that have a tubular configuration.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the urging of said at least two movable members includes continuing moving the two movable members outwardly until a floor of said compartment is flush with a floor of said vehicle.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having a stationary member and a movable member;

urging said movable member outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails having substantially the same height, and

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which are fixed to each other ~~in-a-lateral along a vertical~~ direction and which are included as part of said movable member.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over said support rails and wherein said support rails are connectively spaced from each other.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the providing of a slide out frame includes providing a movable member that has a gear rack disposed between said at least two longitudinally extending support rails.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the urging of said movable member includes causing a motive force to act on said gear rack.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the distributing of said weigh includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially closed rectangular cross-section.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the distributing of said weigh includes distributing weight over support rails that have a tubular configuration.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the urging of said movable member includes continuing moving the movable member outwardly until a floor of said compartment is flush with a floor of said vehicle.

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27. (New) A slide-out mechanism comprising:

a frame; said frame comprising at least one first frame member and at least one second frame member, said at least one second frame member being movable relative to said at least one first frame member;

said second frame member comprised of a first support rail and a second support rail, said first and second support rails being fixedly connected to each other in a horizontal plane such that a load encountered by said second frame member is distributed laterally across said first and second support rails; said first and second support rails fixed at substantially the same height; and,

a floor structure connected to said second frame member

wherein said first support rail and said second support rail are separated by an intervening connective structure.

28. (New) The slide out mechanism of claim 27, wherein a gear rack is disposed on said connective structure.